

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 01805 062321Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-05 MCE-00
CTME-00 EB-08 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 SOE-02
DOE-15 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05
L-03 PA-01 /114 W
-----037874 072254Z /64

R 051941Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5683
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 1805

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, ELAB, PARM, PCAT, PINR, CA, SF, US, AC, BB
SUBJECT: SPACE RESEARCH CORPORATION ARMS SHIPMENTS TO SOUTH AFRICA
VIA ANTIGUA AND BARBADOS

REF: A) STATE 168710, B) BRIDGETOWN 0144

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE FROM OUR ACTIONS AND REPORTING OVER A
SPAN OF SIX MONTHS WE SURMISED THE POSSIBILITY THAT SRC
INVOLVED IN CLANDESTINE ARMS SHIPMENTS. NEVERTHELESS, BE-
CAUSE OF THS POTENTIAL SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES OF PUBLIC DIS-
CLOSURE OF SUCH SHIPMENTS, WE SHALL AWAIT CONCLUSIVE PROOF
THAT THEY DID TAKE PLACE.

2. IN VIEW OF INFORMATION CONTAINED REF STATE TEL AN IMME-
DIATE CONCERN AT THIS STAGE IS THE EXTENT OF OUR OBLIGATION
TO FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS OF ANTIGUA AND BARBADOS. TO MY BEST
KNOWLEDGE, THEY BOTH WERE ASSURED BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT
THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF THEIR COMPLICITY IN ARMS TRANS-
SHIPMENT. WHILE SRC IS A CANADIAN COMPANY WE EXPECT PRESS STORIES
ABOUT ITS ACTIVITISS MAY WELL ORIGINATE IN THE US, AND US
LAWS AND REGULATIONS ARE INVOLVED. I BELISVE WE HAVE
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PAGE 02 BRIDGE 01805 062321Z

SOME RESPONSIBILITY AT LEAST TO HINT TO HIGH LEVELS
IN BOTH GOVERNMENTS THAT WE HAVE INDICATIONS THERE MAY
BE SOME BASIS TO THE CHARGES.

3. DCM EDDY EXPECTS TO LEAVE SOON FOR ANTIGUA. IN MY
JUDGMENT IT WOULD BE WELL FOR HIM TO SEE PREMIER BIRD PRI-
VATELY AND IN A LOW KEY TELL HIM THAT WE HAVE INFORMATION

INDICATING THAT CHARGES AGAINST SRC MAY HAVE SOME BASIS.
HE WOULD NOT GO INTO ANY FURTHER DETAILS. OF COURSE,
THIS NEWS WOULD COME AS QUITE A SHOCK TO THE OLD MAN.
SUBSTANTIATED PUBLIC RELEASE WOULD DO HIM ENORMOUS POLITICAL
DAMAGE. NONETHELESS, HE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL
FOR OUR EARLY WARNING. CONVERSELY HE COULD BE EXPECTED
TO RESENT OUR HOLDING BACK ON HIM, ESPECIALLY
IF STORY BREAKS IN US. I WOULD ALSO SEEK AN EARLY OPPOR-
TUNITY TO ADVISE PRIME MINISTER ADAMS AND/OR FONMIN
FORD ALONG THE SAME LINES.

4. ACTION REQUIRED: REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORIZATION
TO PROCEED AS SUGGESTED ABOVE.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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